

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given to this application.

Claims 2-15 and 26-39 are now pending in the application.

Claims 30-39 are added.

Claims 26 through 29 are allowed.

Claims 2, 3, 7, 9, 14, and 15 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have rewritten claims 2, 7, 9, 14, and 15 into independent form to include features of the base claim and intervening claims. Therefore, independent claims 2, 7, 9, 14, and 15 (and all dependent claims depending therefrom) should now be in condition for allowance.

For purposes of expediting prosecution and reducing excess claim fees, claims 1 and 16-25 are cancelled without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. Applicants expressly reserve the right to refile these cancelled claims and contest any rejections or objections thereof in one or more subsequent applications.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objections and rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4-6, 8, and 10-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Felke et al. (U.S. 20040034456A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The cancellation of claim 1 has rendered moot the rejection thereof.

Applicants have amended claims 4-6, 8, and 10-12 to change their dependency from cancelled claim 1 to amended claim 2 (which the Office Action indicates would be allowable if rewritten in independent form). Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form to include features of the base claim and intervening claims. Therefore, claim 2 (and claims 4-6, 8, and 10-13 depending therefrom) should now be in condition for allowance.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

Claims 26 through 29 are allowed.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 2, 3, 7, 9, 14, and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have rewritten claims 2, 7, 9, 14, and 15 into independent form to include features of the base claim and intervening claims. Therefore, independent claims 2, 7, 9, 14, and 15 (and all dependent claims depending therefrom) should now be in condition for allowance.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 30-39 are each supported by the application as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter is introduced by the addition of claims 30-39. Claims 30-38 each ultimately depend from allowed claim 26. Claim 39 depends from allowable claim 7 (which has been rewritten into independent form and should now be allowable). Therefore, claims 30-39 are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least these reasons.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the appropriate fees have been included with this filing. If, however, Applicants owe any additional fee(s), the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee(s) to Deposit Account No. **08-0750**. In addition, if there is ever any other fee deficiency or overpayment under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or 1.17 in connection with this patent application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such deficiency or overpayment to Deposit Account No. **08-0750**.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned directly at (314) 726-7502.

Respectfully submitted,

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